

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: Impact of an Infant Simulation Program on Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy

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Adolescents often participate in risky sexual behaviors. Caring for a simulation doll (baby) may give the adolescent a more realistic view of the responsibilities of parenting infants during high school, thereby decreasing the chance of an unwanted pregnancy. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of the Baby Think It Over (BTIO) Intervention Program on academic and social life, on emotional risks, cultural values, and family members, and to identify if adolescents are planning to postpone pregnancy following the BTIO intervention. This is a replication of de Anda's (2006) study. The framework is the Baby Think It Over Adolescent Prevention Program. The population will be all 10th grade students in one of two Muncie Community High Schools (N=600). The anticipated sample is 150. BTIO-1 will measure the impact of the program on the adolescents' academic and social life, emotional risks and cultural values, and on family members. BTIO-2 will identify how adolescents changed perceptions of parenting and thoughts about postponing pregnancy. Findings will provide information about the success of the BTIO program in terms of the impact of the adolescent's life. It will help school nurses to further support pregnancy prevention.